

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph stating on page 18, line 22 as follows:

--Although the exemplary system 800 comprises ten sites, a system may comprise any number of sites. In some embodiments, sites may collectively form a peer-to-peer (P2P) database system, wherein any site can initiate a process implicating one or more other sites, such as a process wherein information is requested from one or more other sites. As is discussed in more detail below, this capability may be useful for accomplishing the transfer of information between sites. In some embodiments, the sites of FIG. 8 may be geographically dispersed, such that site ~~800~~ 805, for example, may preside over a first portion of a network in one geographic area, site 810 may preside over a second portion in another geographic area, and so on. However, the invention is not limited to a particular implementation, or geographic dispersal.--

Please amend paragraph stating on page 19, line 1 as follows:

--For the purposes of transferring information therebetween, the sites of FIG. 8 are interrelated in a hierarchical organization scheme, such that sites are designated as subordinate sites, master sites or both. For example, sites 840, 845, 850 are designated as subordinate sites which are "assigned" to master site 810. Site 810 is also designated as a subordinate site assigned to master site ~~800~~ 805 (along with sites 820 and 830). Any number of subordinate sites may be assigned to a master site.--

Please amend paragraph stating on page 21, line 6 as follows:

--In some embodiments, if a site is designated as a master site for one or more subordinate sites (e.g., site 810, which is designated as a master site for subordinate sites 840, 845 and 850), the site may also store site maps for each of its subordinate sites. For example, the locator service executing on a site may coordinate the storage of subordinate site maps, although any suitable means may be employed. Also, in some embodiments, the site may receive site map information from its master site (e.g., site 810 may receive site map information from site ~~800~~ 805). This function may also, for example, be performed by the locator service executing on a site, although any suitable means may be employed. This "upload" of site map information from one or more subordinates to a master site, and "download" of site map information from master to subordinate, may provide each site a catalog of some or all of the network activity data collected by each other site on the system.--

Please amend paragraph stating on page 22, line 24 as follows:

--In some embodiments, just as information transferred by a site to its master may include site maps from the site's subordinates, information transferred from the master may include site maps from other sites that previously transferred them to the master site. For example, site 810 may receive a site map not only for its master site ~~800~~ 805, but also site maps for sites 820 and 830. Moreover, because information sent to site 810 by site 830 may also include site maps from sites 855, 860 and/or 865, the information received by a site from its master may include site maps for all other sites on the system except the site's subordinates. Thus, the transfer process may ensure

that each site receives a site map for each other site on the network.--

Please amend paragraph stating on page 23, line 1 as follows:

--In order to make the transfer process most effective, in some embodiments the timing of data transfer may be coordinated across sites, such that the transfer from subordinate to master sites occurs before the transfer from master to subordinate sites. For example, if data transfer between sites occurs periodically and site 840 is to be apprised of activity on site 865 as quickly as possible, site 830 should wait until data from site 865 (and possibly from sites 855 and 860) is transferred thereto before transferring data to site 800. Similarly, site ~~800~~ 805 should wait for the upload from site 830 (and possibly from site 820) before transferring data to site 810. In the same way, site 810 should wait for the transfer from site ~~800~~ 805 before transferring data to site 840. Thus, in order to ensure the quickest delivery of data between sites, in some embodiments site map transfers occur "up the chain" in sequence from the lowest-level subordinate to the highest-level master site, and then "down the chain" in sequence from the highest-level master to the lowest-level subordinate site(s). However, the invention is obviously not limited in this regard, as the transfer of information may occur in any suitable fashion.--